

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A support device for supporting an article, particularly in a motor vehicle, comprising a support arm (8) having at one end thereof a clamping element (1) including a cylindrical bushing (2) of an elastic material for reception in a cylindrical opening (1a), and means for expanding said bushing (2) into firm engagement with the wall of said opening (1a) for securely supporting said support arm in said cylindrical opening (1a).

2. A support device according to claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of said bushing is increased at least partially by deformation of the bushing material.

3. A support device according to claim 1, wherein said bushing (2) consists of a thermoplastic polyurethane.

4. A support device according to claim 1, wherein said bushing (2) is provided at opposite axial ends with conical openings (2a, 2b) whose diameters increase toward the axial outer ends of the bushing (2).

5. A support device according to claim 4, wherein conical engagement members (3, 4) are arranged at the opposite ends of said bushing (2) so as to be movable axially relative to each other.

6. A support device according to claim 5, wherein a threaded bolt (5) extends axially through said conical engagement members (3, 4), by which the conical engagement members (3, 4) are movable relative to each other.

7. A support device according to claim 6, wherein said clamping element (1) includes a sleeve (6) connected to said threaded bolt (5) for operating said bolt (5).

8. A support device according to claim 7, wherein said sleeve (6) of said clamping element (1) includes an opening (7) in which said support arm is mounted.

9. A support device according to claim 8, wherein said support arm comprises a flexible tube with a bendable rod disposed in said flexible tube.